GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:335
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2015
Impact of Radiation on Birds
Chautala Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been constituted by the Government regarding the changes in the life pattern of birds due to polluted environmental conditions including radiation from cell phone towers;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government has ascertained the reason for diminishing number of some species of birds in the country; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) and (b) No studies regarding the changes in life pattern of birds due to polluted environmental conditions including radiation from cell phone towers have been initiated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. However, this Ministry had constituted an 'Expert Committee to study the possible impacts of communication towers on wildlife including Birds and Bees' on 30th August 2010 under the chairmanship of Dr. Asad Rahmani, Director, Bombay Natural History Society. As per the report of the Expert Committee, there are indications that the Electromagnetic Radiations can affect biological systems of animals, birds and insects. Accordingly, the Ministry has issued an advisory in this context to concerned organizations like Department of Telecommunications; State/Union Territory Governments; Ministry of Panchayati Raj for their information and requisite action.

(c) and (d) Fluctuations in population of birds and wild animals are a natural phenomenon. According to International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list, the major reasons for decline in the population of birds are: loss, modification, fragmentation and degradation of habitat, environmental contaminants, poaching, land use changes particularly conversion of large areas to intensive crop cultivation, changes in cropping pattern due to various reasons including implementation of irrigation schemes, increased pesticide usage and livestock-grazing, high levels of disturbance, developmental activities like mining and hydel projects. Threats posed by infrastructure development, such as collisions with vehicles, power-lines and wind turbines, further exacerbate the situation.

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